

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT)**

August 6, 2007

6:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Garrity.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were ten Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Long, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries,
Garrity, Smith, Forest

Absent: Aldermen Gatsas, Duval, Osborne, Thibault

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to hear those wishing to speak with regard to a proposed amendment to the Manchester City Charter by adding a new subsection (b) to Section 3.05 Tenure of Office; that anyone wishing to speak must first step to the nearest microphone when recognized, recite his/her name and address in a clear, loud voice for the record; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested the Clerk present the Question containing a proposed amendment providing for a new subsection (b) to Section 3.05 Tenure of Office.

“Shall the municipality approve the Charter amendment reprinted below?”

3.05 TENURE OF OFFICE

(a) Effective upon the adoption of this charter there shall be no set terms for department heads, subject to the provisions of Article X, Section 10.06.

(b) Notwithstanding the above provision, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen may enter into an employment contract with a set term with the Airport Director. If exercised, such a contract shall also set forth the terms and conditions of employment of the Airport Director and shall be subject to the provisions of Section 3.06 of this Charter.

Mayor Guinta provided a brief presentation stating as everybody knows this came up as a result of the departure of our last Director and the discussion ensued regarding tenure of that position and one of the issues that became apparent was a lack of a contract was certainly an issue relating to his departure but also the potential departure of future Airport Directors. So there's been discussion of this Board about changing that and only that Director to allow this Board to enter into a contract with that individual. Unfortunately there is a Charter change that is required based on how the current Charter is written and unless anybody has any questions I will call the supports and those in opposition to speak.

Alderman Lopez stated the question I have of the City attorney...in reading that is that automatically or do we have to put an effective date for that Charter change in the sentence someplace?

Deputy City Solicitor Arnold replied the state statute provides that if you do not put in an effective date it becomes effective on the first day of the subsequent fiscal year.

Alderman Lopez stated that's my point. I think that if things go along it's very possible and the Mayor could verify this because we were in a meeting...it's very possible that around October or November there might be a candidate...with the those intentions what the City Solicitor said are we going to wait till January, your Honor?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated I guess the Clerk would suggest that if the Board desired it could tomorrow night when it appears on the agenda place an effective to be effective upon passage because it's a may and not a shall it leaves you the opportunity to do a contract anytime you want.

Alderman O'Neil stated did I hear Tom (Deputy City Solicitor Arnold) say fiscal year or calendar year?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson replied fiscal year.

Alderman O'Neil stated and somebody else referenced January 1st...so is it fiscal year...so if we don't put a date in it would be July 1 of 2008.

Mayor Guinta stated I would certainly entertain that motion tomorrow evening.

Alderman DeVries stated mine is just a comment for the public that wouldn't have the verbiage in front of us and I just wanted to reiterate that this is an amendment that would effect only the Airport Director position and would not have any impact or effectiveness on any other positions in the City. Thank you.

Mayor Guinta called upon those wishing to speak. There were none.

Mayor Guinta advises that all wishing to speak having been heard, the testimony presented will be taken under advisement and considered by the Board of Mayor and aldermen on august 7, 2007.

Mayor Guinta advised this being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented. On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Roy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk